

## **NEWS ADVISORY**

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### **PSC TO HOST 15-STATE REGULATORS CONFERENCE IN OMAHA**

LINCOLN – The “Father of the Internet” and an assistant secretary for the federal Department of Homeland Security will headline a group of five featured speakers at a conference of the Mid-American Regulatory Commissioners (MARC) in Omaha for three days beginning June 9.

Nebraska Public Service Commission Chair Anne Boyle of Omaha said about 250 persons are expected for the conference at the Doubletree Hotel at 16<sup>th</sup> and Dodge Streets. Boyle also serves as MARC president. “It is the first time in anyone’s memory that Nebraska has hosted this event,” Boyle said.

The program reflects the wide-range of utilities that regulators in the 15-state MARC region oversee, Boyle said. “We have tried to address the cutting edge issues. The MARC conference further educates industry and government officials on new technologies and challenges so we can move forward.”

Key speakers include Dr. Vinton Cerf, known as Father of the Internet, and Robert Liscouski, appointed March 13 by President George W. Bush as assistant secretary for infrastructure protection in the Department of Homeland Security. Other headliners are J. James

Barr, retired president of the American Water Works Company; Richard Notebaert, chairman and chief executive officer of Qwest Communications; and David Sokol, chairman and chief executive officer of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company.

In addition, several industry and government representatives will moderate or serve as panelists for utility-specific topicals.

MARC is one of five regional regulatory commissioner associations affiliated with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). Member states, which represent much of the upper-Mississippi River basin, include: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Dr. Cerf is senior vice president for Internet architecture and technology at MCI WorldCom. He is the co-designer of the TCP/IP protocols and the architecture of the Internet. In December 1997, President Bill Clinton presented the National Medal of Technology to Dr. Cerf and his partner, Robert Kahn, for founding and developing the Internet. Dr. Cerf will speak at a 9:00 a.m. general session on June 10.

Liscouski was director of information assurance for Coca-Cola prior to his appointment to the Homeland Security post in March. He is responsible for programs that protect the nation's physical and digital assets from attack. He also is a member of the Intelligence Science Board, a Central Intelligence Agency panel. Liscouski is scheduled to address the conference at a 9:15 a.m. general session on June 9.

Barr retired as president and chief executive officer of American Water Works, a privately-held water utility, in January after more than 41 years with the company. He is a former chairman of the board of directors of the National Association of Water Companies and active in

the American Water Works Association. He also served as a member of the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Financial Advisory Board and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. Barr will be the luncheon speaker on June 9.

Notebaert is finishing his first year at the helm of Qwest. He was named chairman and chief executive officer on June 17, 2002. Notebaert formerly was president and chief executive officer of Tellabs and chairman of the board of Ameritech Corporation. He served in a variety of management capacities with Ameritech and Indiana Bell in a 30-year career with the Ameritech company. Notebaert will speak at a 6 p.m. dinner on June 10.

Sokol has been chairman and chief executive officer of MidAmerican Energy Holdings since February, 1991. During his tenure, MidAmerican has grown from the ownership of one geotherman power project to a worldwide energy provider. It has utility subsidiaries in the United States and the United Kingdom. Its American holdings include Northern Natural Gas, purchased last August. Sokol is the June 9 dinner speaker.

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